

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/694,004

Examiner

Andrae S. Allison

Applicant(s)

FURUKAWA ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number. (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/07/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

JOSEPH MANKOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Tomoki Tanika on March 12, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein the prepress system comprises:

a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data; a data storage; and a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process, and wherein the second print image data is proofed data of the first print image data, the computer program product comprises:

a computer readable storage medium; and

a computer program for a prepress process stored on the computer readable storage medium, the computer program including:

a first program for setting a first flow pattern of the prepress process for the first print image data and a second flow pattern of the prepress process for the second print image data, the first flow pattern including a step where the data storage stores the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor, the second flow pattern including a step where the plate image inspection processor executes the plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data; a second program, upon receiving the first print image data, for executing the prepress process according to the first flow pattern to cause the data storage to store the first raster image data; and a third program, upon receiving the second print image data, for executing the prepress process according to the second flow pattern to cause the plate image inspection processor to execute the plate image inspection process.

Claim 20. (New) A computer program product for executing plate image inspection using a prepress system, wherein the prepress system comprises: a raster image processor configured to develop first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data, and to develop second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data; a data storage; and a plate image inspection processor configured to execute a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, and to display on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process, and wherein the computer program product

Art Unit: 2624

comprises: a computer readable storage medium; and a computer program stored on the computer readable storage medium, the computer program including:

a first program for setting a flow pattern of a prepress process, the flow pattern including a storing-inspection step; and

a second program for executing the prepress process according to the flow pattern, and wherein the second program includes:

a program, when processing the first print image data according to the flow pattern , for causing the data storage, in the storing-inspection step, to store the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor for use in a future inspection process of proofed print image data without executing the inspection process, followed by proceeding to a next step in the flow pattern, the first print image data being print image data prior to proofing; and

a program, when processing the second print image data according to the flow pattern for causing the plate image inspection processor, in the storing-inspection step, to execute the plate image inspection process, the second print image data being proofed data of the first print image data.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: After reviewing the remarks made by Applicant in response to the non-final action the

Art Unit: 2624

Examiner finds the remarks to be persuasive. The most pertinent prior art is Nakagawa et al (US Patent No.: 5,969,798) and Chang et al (Pub No.: 2002/0097419). Nakagawa discloses an image inspection apparatus that includes a raster image processor for developing a first print image data to display resolution to create first raster image data and for developing second print image data to the display resolution to create second raster image data. Nakagawa also teaches a data storage for storing the first raster image data created in advance prior to creation of the second raster image data. Additionally, Nakagawa teaches a plate image inspection processor for executing a plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data. Nakagawa further teaches displaying on a display device a result of the plate image inspection process. However, Nakagawa does not expressly disclose a raster image processor and the second print data is proofed data of the first print image data. Chang discloses an information apparatus that includes a raster image processor. Neither, Nakagawa or Chang teaches the parameter setting section sets flow pattern of the prepress process for the first print image data and a second flow pattern of the prepress process for the second print image data, the first flow pattern including a step where the data storage stores the first raster image data obtained by the raster image processor, the second flow pattern including a step where the plate image inspection processor executes the plate image inspection process by comparing the first and second raster image data, upon receiving the first print image data, the controller executes the prepress process according to the first flow pattern where the controller causes the data storage to store the first raster image data, and upon receiving the second print image

Art Unit: 2624

data, the controller executes the prepress process according to the second flow pattern where the controller causes the plate image inspection processor to execute the plate image inspection process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statements of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made part of the record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Omae et al (US Patent No.: 5, 764,793) is cited to teach a method and apparatus for inspecting pattern defects.

Matsumoto et al (Patent No.: 4,827,526) is cited to teach an image information detecting/processing method.

Fujita et al (US Patent No.: 6,700,679) is cited to teach an image recording apparatus.

Broinstein et al (US Patent No.: 6,031,932) is cited to teach an automatic inspection of printing plates or cylinders.

Tsunoda et al (US Patent No.: 4,649,566) is cited to teach a method and system for processing image signals.

Wenzel et al (US Patent No.: 7,127,100) is cited to teach a system and method for analyzing and image.

Inquires

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrae S. Allison whose telephone number is (571) 270-1052. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EST.

Art Unit: 2624

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on (571) 272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Andrae Allison

March 12, 2007

A.A.



JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER